

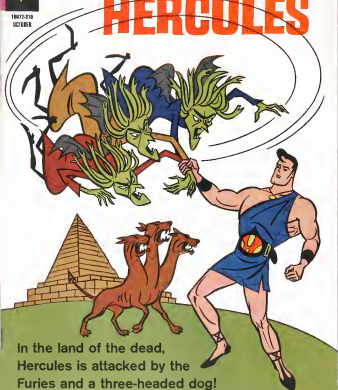
**GOLD  
KEY**

THE MIGHTY HERCULES

NOW ONLY **12c**

1983-84  
OCTOBER

# THE MIGHTY HERCULES



In the land of the dead,  
Hercules is attacked by the  
Furies and a three-headed dog!



KEYS OF KNOWLEDGE

# PHYSICAL FITNESS

Recommended by the President's  
Council on Youth Fitness

NUMBER 1

## BACK STRENGTHENERS

This is one of a series of information features in Rand Key Comics. Collect the whole series for useful knowledge.



Lying on your side, raise the uppermost leg straight . . . Try to touch your foot . . . Change sides and repeat same action.



From a standing position, stretch one leg back and up, keeping the trunk level, head up . . . Hold . . . Change legs . . . Repeat.



© THE WESTERN PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC.

Face your partner, seated, feet touching, fingers interlocked . . . Bend low as your partner pulls . . . Then reverse the action.



Stand, then squat touching hands to the floor . . . Thrust legs back to limit . . . Return to a squatting position . . . Stand.



Stand with arms high overhead, the palms out . . . Swing arms down and back to the limit, bending body low, knees a little.

The Mighty Hercules

# JOURNEY TO THE LAND OF THE DEAD

AS HELENA GRAZES A FLOCK OF SHEEP IN THE  
FIELDS BY CALYDON, SUDDENLY, THE GREEN  
GRASS TURNS BROWN...

WHY, THE GRASS  
IS DYING!



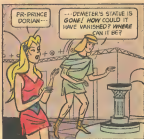
AND THE FRUIT IS DYING—  
RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES!



EVEN THE LEAVES ARE FALLING!  
EVERYTHING THAT GROWS AND IS  
GREEN SUDDENLY SEEMS TO  
BE DEAD!



THE MIGHTY HERCULES, No. 5, October, 1960. Published courtesy of R.E. Publications, Inc., Paramus, New York, in cooperation with Golden Press, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted by the World's Largest Comic Book Distributor, published and printed in the U.S.A. by Western Printing & Lithographing Co. Copyright © 1960, by Alexander Cartoons For Television, Inc.



IF CALYDON WANTS TO HAVE THINGS GROW  
HERE AGAIN, THE PEOPLE WILL HAVE TO MAKE  
ME THEIR RULER!



HAH! HAH! NOW, DEMETER'S STATUE IS IN  
THE PALACE OF NO ENTRANCE! THE CLOSED  
PALACE OF THE DEAD EVIL ROBBER, PRINCE  
MELOS!



SUFFERING POKE,  
TENT! DID YOU  
HEAR THAT?



MEANWHILE ...

NO WONDER ALL THE CROPS HAVE DIED! DEMETER  
IS ANGRY WITH US FOR  
LETTING SOMEONE STEAL  
HER STATUE! BUT HOW CAN  
WE FIND IT?

ONLY  
WITH HELP!



HERCULES!



HIGH ABOVE, AT THE  
HOME OF THE GODS  
ON MOUNT OLIMPIUS.

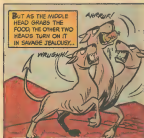
HERCULES,  
HELP US!















BUT ONCE AGAIN, HERCULES' WAY IS BARRED! THIS TIME BY HADES, RULER OF THE REALM OF THE DEAD.

LET ME PASS, HADES! I WISH TO SPEAK TO THE GHOST OF MELOS!



EVEN THE MIGHTY HERCULES CAN'T INVADE MY REALM! BUT I WILL MAKE YOU A BAR-GAIN! IF YOU CAN FULFILL MELOS'S PUNISH-MENT, YOU MAY SPEAK WITH HIM--AND I WILL LET YOU LEAVE HERE ALIVE!



WHAT IS HIS PUNISHMENT?

A TASK THAT EVEN YOU CAN'T DO!









AS DAE DALUS WAVES HIS WIZARD'S HAND SUDDENLY...

GREAT ZEUS! TH-THE  
STONE WALLS ARE  
ON FIRE!



SUFFERING PSYCHE,  
STONES CAN'T BURN!  
BUT THESE ARE  
BLAZING!

THIS MUST BE  
DAE DALUS'S HAND-  
WORK! BUT MAYBE  
I CAN CLEAR A  
WAY FOR US!



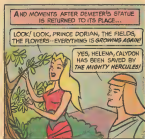
WE'RE OUT, HERE! HURRY!



THERE, HERE!  
TENT'S  
SPOTTED  
DAE DALUS!

HE HAS GIVEN US  
ENOUGH TROUBLE! I'D  
BETTER GET RID OF HIM  
BEFORE HE TRIES SOME  
MORE BLACK MAGIC TRICKS!





Great Heroes  
of Mythology

# PERSEUS AND THE DREAD GORGONS

WHILE CHASING A WILD BOAR ALONG THE SEACOAST OF HIS KINGDOM, KING POLYDECTES SEES A BEAUTIFUL WIDOW SPINNING...

YOU SHALL BE MY NEXT WIFE!

NO, MY KING! I RESPECT MY HUSBAND'S MEMORY TOO GREATLY TO REMARRY!

WALL TO WALL PUBLICATIONS, NEW YORK, N.Y.

ALL RIGHT! IF YOU REFUSE TO MARRY ME, THEN YOU SHALL SERVE ME---AS A SLAVE!

BUT BEFORE THE KING CAN ORDER HIS MEN TO SEIZE THE WIDOW, HER SON PERSEUS COMES UP! AT THE SIGHT OF THE POWERFUL YOUTH, THE KING RIDES OFF.

BUT I WILL HAVE HER AS MY WIFE---OR SLAVE!

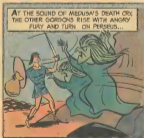
SOON AFTER, PERSEUS IS INVITED TO A ROYAL PARTY...

PERSEUS, YOU ALONE HAVE BROUGHT ME NO GIFT!

BECAUSE I HAVE NOTHING TO BRING! BUT IF ANYTHING CAN BE WON BY STRENGTH OR DARING---AND IT SHALL BE YOURS!

VERY WELL, PERSEUS--BRING ME A GORGON'S HEAD, MEDUSA'S HEAD!

HE-HER HEAD!



FLEEING FROM THE SNAKE-HAIRED WOMEN,  
PERSEUS RETURNS HOME...

MOTHER---

--- SHE IS NOT HERE!  
ONCE YOU WERE GONE,  
THE KING HAD HER TAKEN  
TO HIS PALACE, WHERE  
SHE GRINDS HIS CORN,  
AS A LONELY SLAVE!

QUICKLY PERSEUS STORMS INTO THE ROYAL  
PALACE...

BEHOLD! I BRING YOU  
ANDROS'S HEAD!

HAH! HAH! DO  
YOU THINK YOU CAN  
FOOL ME WITH A  
SACK  
FILLED WITH  
SAND?

CLOSING HIS EYES PERSEUS  
REACHES INTO THE BAG...

IS THIS  
SAND?  
LOOK?

INSTANTLY, AT THE SIGHT OF THE DREAD HEAD,  
KING POLYDECTES FREEZES ON HIS THRONE,  
AS HIS BODY CHANGES INTO STONE!

OUT OF THE PALACE STRIDES PERSEUS, HIS  
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED-- HIS MOTHER FREE!

# The ATHLETE in ANCIENT GREECE



© 1920 BY WESTERN PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC.

From earliest historic times the Greeks were passionately devoted to athletic games. Youths of all ages avidly practiced such sports as boxing, wrestling, discus throwing and hurling the javelin. Popular, too, were the high jump and broad jump.

There were foot races for various distances. The nearest thing to the modern sprint was the short straightaway called the "stadion"—about 200 yards. Stone blocks were provided to give the runners a foothold for the take-off. Distance running was also popular. One of the most colorful of events was a race in full armor.

There were two types of wrestling contests. One was similar to a rough and tumble bout. The second type demanded considerably more skill. In this event each wrestler tried to throw his opponent so that his shoulder touched the ground.

Boxing was a highly-skilled sport engaged in by the most ambitious athletes. A championship won at the Olympics would bring national acclaim. The boxers' hands were bound by soft leather thongs for protection.

In later years the Greeks began to favor brute strength over skill. Boxers wrapped their fists with hard bullhide. These wrappings were often weighted with lead.

Athletes trained for long months each year. Training was rigorous. Food was restricted to cheese, dried figs and wheat bread. In later years meat was permitted. In addition to gymnastic exercises, athletes were taught how to lift weights and bend

iron rods. Instructions were given in how to tame bulls and strike a leather sack filled with sand.

Before engaging in a contest the athlete was rubbed down with olive oil. After the event the oiled mixture of sweat, oil and dust was scraped off with a wooden stick, then the contestant took a shower.

The climax of every athlete's career was the Olympic games. These were held every four years. The fourth year was known as the Olympiad. During this time wars were suspended and a general truce declared. Athletes from all over Greece journeyed to Olympia to compete for national honors.

An Olympic victor was held in the highest esteem. His friends would donate money and set up a statue in his honor. The city of Athens rewarded her Olympic heroes handsomely with a gift of 500 drachmas. The Olympic winner was also entitled to eat at the public expense, and to sit in the choicest seats at the theater.

Many of the famous Greek heroes of legend and history were Olympic victors. Among these was the celebrated Milo who was six times a victor in wrestling at the Olympic games. Among his amazing feats of strength was his carrying a heifer on his shoulders through the stadium at Olympia, and afterward devouring it in a single day!

The Olympics are said to have been founded by the mighty Hercules himself. This hero's legendary feats of athletic skill, strength and daring have become an inspiration to athletes the world over.

The Mighty Hercules

# THE DANGEROUS WINDS

EXCHANGING A CARGO OF HER SHEEP FOR SPICES AND RARE ISLAND FOODS, HELENA SAILS HOME FOR CALYDON, WHEN SUDDENLY...

WHAT HAPPENED?  
WHY HAVE WE STOPPED?







AEOLUS, RAISE A NORTH WIND! STRONG  
ENOUGH TO SEPARATE HERCULES FROM  
HELENA--- COLD ENOUGH  
TO IMPRISON HIM IN ICE!



HOLD ON, HELENA!  
I'M COMING!

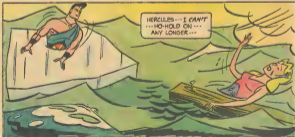
HERCULES! THE  
WIND SEEMS  
TO BE BLOWING  
US APART!



BOLDER AND COLDER THE NORTH WIND  
BLOWS, AS THE SEA AROUND HERCULES  
CHANGES FROM RAGING WAVES TO...



A BLOCK OF IMPRISONING,  
SOLID ICE...



HERCULES--- I CAN'T  
---HO-HOLD ON---  
ANY LONGER---

DESPERATE TO GET FREE, THE MIGHTY HERCULES  
BREATHEs HARD, PUFFING AND PUFFING HIS  
WARM BREATH INTO THE FROZEN BLOCK...

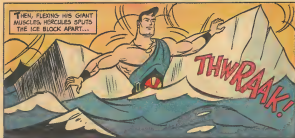


AND SUDDENLY, A CRACK SLITHERS ACROSS  
THE ICY TRAP...

**CRAAAK!**



THEN, FLEECING HIS GIANT  
MUSCLES, HERCULES SPITS  
THE ICE BLOCK APART...



HELENA! STAY AFOAT!  
I AM ALMOST THERE!



I HAVE YOU! NOW  
TO GET YOU SAFELY  
ASHORE!



ONCE HELENA IS SAFE, HERCULES  
RESCUES ALL THE CREWMEN...

I WONDER WHO  
CAUSED US ALL  
THIS TROUBLE?



WHILE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ISLAND...

ALAS, ELYRA! WE'LL HAVE  
TO EAT AND RUN! THE MIGHTY  
HERCULES HAS FOILED MY  
PLANS AGAIN!



LOOK, ELYRA! A SLAVERS' SHIP! THAT'S  
AN IDEA! I'LL DIRECT THEM TO ANCHORAGE!  
HE'D MAKE A PERFECT SLAVE!



ABSOLUTELY! QUICKLY BLOW  
THE SLAVERS' SHIP TO  
THIS ISLAND!

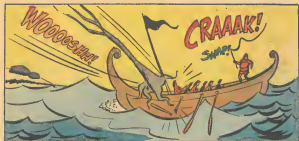


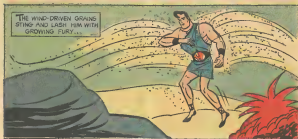
AND SUDDENLY, ABOARD THE SLAVE SHIP...

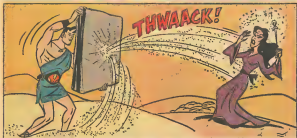
STROKE! PULL HARDER  
OR THE WIND WILL CRUSH  
US UP ON THAT BARREN  
ISLAND!













SOON...

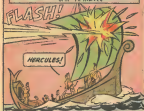
ABOLUS CERTAINLY KEPT HIS  
PROMISE! WITH THIS WIND  
WE'LL SOON SIGHT CALYDON!



IF I CAN'T ENJOY THAT SHIP'S DELICIOUS  
CARGO, NO ONE WILL! LET MY MAGIC FIRE  
RING REFLECT THE SUN'S RAYS AND SET  
HERCULES'S SHIP ABLAZE!



SUDDENLY, WILAMENE'S RING-REFLECTED  
SUNBEAM SETS THE WOODEN SAILING  
SHIP AFIRE...

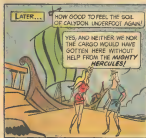
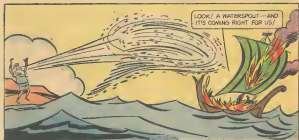


THE WHOLE SHIP'S  
ABLAZE!



I PROMISED HERCULES  
SAFE PASSAGE! MAYBE  
A WATERSPOUT CAN  
DOUSE THAT FLAME!







KEYS OF KNOWLEDGE

# ARCHAEOLOGY

NUMBER 12

## ARTHUR EVANS AND CRETE

This is one of a series of information features in Gold Key Comics. Collect the whole series for useful knowledge.



He began his work at Knossos and within a few weeks he had unearthed a huge building of great age, the Palace of King Minos.



The beautiful sculpture and art work that he found proved to be far older than other known cultures, and had influenced them.



In 1900 Arthur Evans, a wealthy Englishman began excavation of Crete. It was a task that would occupy him for 40 years.



The corridors of this great building were laid out in such confusing fashion that it reminded him of the mythical labyrinth.



The Minoans, as they are called, had three different kinds of writing, one of which was of a hieroglyphic or picture form.

# THE MIGHTY HERCULES

FIN-UP NO. 2

